

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTRAL SHIPPING AND RECEIVING POINT
ON FORT HOOD, TEXAS**

1.0 NAME OF THE ACTION

Proposed construction of a Central Shipping and Receiving Point (CSRP) on Fort Hood, Texas

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Under the Proposed Action, Fort Hood proposes to construct a new CSRP. The new facility shall be sited just west of the DOL facility, and will consist of approximately 6.36 acres of Fort Hood property.

One site was proposed briefly during a preliminary planning meeting to place the new CSRP directly east of the DOL facility (building 89010). The site was eliminated because, even though the current design would fit on the property, any expansion would be limited by waters of the U.S. surrounding the area, which were identified during a delineation of the area in 2005. Because designers did not want to design a facility that may interfere with waters of the U.S., the site was eliminated from consideration. No other alternatives were considered based on the fact that there were no other viable alternatives for the placement of the CSRP.

Under the No Action Alternative, the CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT OF PROPOSED ACTION

Based on this EA, there would be insignificant adverse impacts associated with the construction of the new CSRP. Approximately 6.36 acres of open space would be converted to urban use. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm water, waste water, and vegetation are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise, hazardous materials, and socioeconomics due to construction activities are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to environmental justice and protection of children are anticipated.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/REVIEW

The Draft EA and FNSI will be available for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning May 4, 2006. The Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Killeen Daily Herald. The purpose of this review is to ensure that significant issues are resolved. The documents can be viewed on the following website: <http://www.dpw.hood.army.mil/HTML/PPD/Pnotice.htm>. Copies have also been provided to the Killeen Public Library at 205 East Church Avenue, Killeen, Texas, 76541. Comments on the EA and FNSI should be submitted no later than April 7, 2006 to: U.S. Army, HQ III Corps and Fort Hood, Attn: IMSW-HOD-PWE, Building 4219, 77th

Street and Warehouse Avenue, Fort Hood, TX 76544-5028, Attn: Amber Preston, (phone 254-288-5462).

5.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the EA, no significant impact on human health or the natural environment is anticipated from the Proposed Action. A FNSI is warranted and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.

Roderick A. Chisholm
Director of Public Works

Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CENTRAL SHIPPING AND RECEIVING POINT ON FORT HOOD, TEXAS

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential for significant adverse or beneficial impacts of the construction of a new Central Shipping and Receiving Point (CSRP). The EA describes the purpose and need of the proposed action, alternatives considered, existing conditions of the environment, and the anticipated impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

PURPOSE AND NEED:

Fort Hood proposes to construct a new Central Shipping and Receiving Point (CSRP) adjacent to the Directorate of Logistics (DOL) facility on Fort Hood. The new facility will be approximately 36,240 square feet sited on approximately 6.36 acres.

The need for a new CSRP has arisen due to requirements enacted after September 11, 2001. Those requirements limit truck (18-wheeler) traffic to industrial park areas, and minimize access to heavily populated areas nearer to the center of the installation. Additionally, the location of the current CSRP limits opportunities for expansion, and the facility is not optimized for the mission of the CSRP.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Under the Proposed Action, Fort Hood proposes to construct a new CSRP. The new facility shall be sited just west of the DOL facility, and will consist of approximately 6.36 acres of Fort Hood property. Figure 2.1 depicts the proposed footprint of the new CSRP.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION:

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:

Based on this EA, there would be insignificant adverse impacts associated with the construction of the new CSRP. Approximately 6.36 acres of open space would be converted to urban use. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm water, waste water, and vegetation are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise,

hazardous materials, and socioeconomics due to construction activities are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to environmental justice and protection of children are anticipated.

CONCLUSIONS:

Based upon the results of the EA, it has been concluded that the proposed action would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is warranted and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTRAL SHIPPING AND
RECEIVING POINT
ON
FORT HOOD, TEXAS**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
AR	Army Regulation
BCWCID	Bell County Water Control Improvement District
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CSRP	Central Shipping and Receiving Point
CU	Classification Unit
DOL	Directorate of Logistics
DNL	Day-Night Level
DOIM	Directorate of Information Management
DRMO	Defense Reutilization Marketing Office
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act
KISD	Killeen Independent School District
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NOA	Notice of Availability
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCPI	Per Capita Personal Income
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROI	Region of Influence
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPI	Total Personal Income
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to address the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, associated with the proposed construction of a new Central Shipping and Receiving Point on Fort Hood, Texas. Fort Hood Military Reservation is a 217,300-acre U.S. Army installation located in Central Texas, approximately 58 miles due north of Austin and 39 miles southwest of Waco. Fort Hood is one of the Army's premier training installations, and a full range of mission-related training activities are conducted, including maneuver exercises for armored units up to brigade level, firing of live weapons, and aviation training. Fort Hood is the home of the U.S. Army's III Corps Headquarters (III Corps), 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and numerous other military commands.

The Central Shipping and Receiving Point (CSRP) is a type of warehouse facility for shipping and receiving both hazardous and non-hazardous materials for the installation. Hazardous materials commonly processed through the CSRP include, but are not limited to, packaged lubricants (i.e. automotive and aircraft lubricants, grease, and oils), wet batteries filled with acid, dry batteries, battery fluid, battery powered equipment and vehicles, oxygen and acetylenes, military vehicles, cleaning supplies, flammable liquids, aerosol flammables, radioactive materials, computers and electronics, and insecticides. Non-hazardous materials that are commonly processed through the CSRP include, but are not limited to, soldiers' individual equipment (i.e. clothing, tenage, tool sets, and administrative supplies), major end items (i.e. military vehicles, generators, and air compressors), medical material (i.e. stretchers, combat life saver bags, and other medical equipment repair parts), repair parts, kits and assemblies, support equipment, and civil affair operation materials (i.e. commercial design tractors, aviation parts, etc.).

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

Fort Hood proposes to construct a new CSRP adjacent to the Directorate of Logistics (DOL) facility on Fort Hood. The new facility will be approximately 36,379 square feet sited on approximately 6.36 acres. The trenching outside the grading limits will be approximately 22,537 square feet. See Figure 1-1 below:

Figure 1-1



The need for a new CSRP has arisen due to requirements enacted after September 11, 2001. Those requirements limit truck (18-wheeler) traffic to industrial park areas, and minimize access to heavily populated areas nearer to the center of the installation. Additionally, the location of the current CSRP limits opportunities for expansion, and the facility is not optimized for the mission of the CSRP.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

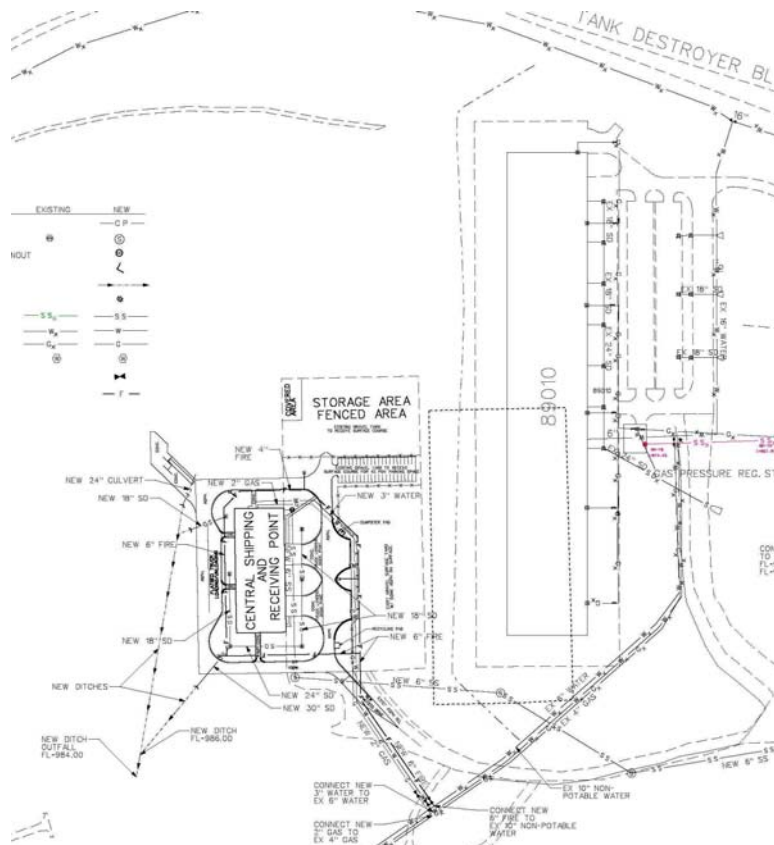
This EA is being prepared in accordance with requirements of the NEPA (Public Law [PL] 91-190, 1969). NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental consequences of all proposed actions in their decision-making process. The intent of the NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through a well-informed decision-making process. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established under the NEPA to implement and oversee Federal policy in this process. U.S. Army Regulation (AR) 200-2, *Environmental Affects of Army Actions*, implements the CEQ regulations within the Army. This EA should provide sufficient evidence and analysis to inform decision-makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the alternatives.

This EA identifies, documents, and evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed construction of a new CSRP. Section 2.0 describes the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Section 3.0 describes existing environmental conditions, and specifically the sites that could be affected by the alternatives. Section 4.0 identifies potential environmental effects that could occur upon implementation of the Proposed Action and the subsequent cumulative impacts.

In this section, the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative are considered. No other alternatives shall be considered based on the fact that there were no other viable alternatives for the placement of the CSRP.

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Figure 2.1



2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, the CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The affected environment is the baseline against which potential impacts caused by the proposed property lease are assessed. This section focuses on those resources and conditions that may be affected by activities resulting from the construction of a new CSRP on Fort Hood. Those resources present within the footprint of, and immediate area surrounding, the Proposed Action are included in this analysis; those resources that are either not present within the area, or would not be affected by the alternatives are not analyzed here.

Those resources eliminated from further study include groundwater, surface water, wetlands and waters of the U.S., floodplains, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources.

Surface water, wetlands and waters of the U.S. and floodplains were eliminated due to the fact that none of these resources will be affected on the subject property. Groundwater, and the quality of nearby water bodies, will not be affected due to best management practices and construction management practices outlined in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that shall be prepared for the construction site.

Fish and wildlife were eliminated from further study due to their infrequency on the subject property. Because the property lies in the Main Cantonment area of the installation, few animals are found on the property, and will not be affected by the new construction. There are no occurrences of threatened or endangered species on the subject property.

Cultural resources were eliminated from further study because no known cultural or historic sites are present on the subject property. The existing DOL facility located east of the proposed construction area was built in 1991 and does not qualify as a historic structure.

3.1 LAND USE

The subject property is bordered by Tank Destroyer Boulevard on the north and DOL (building 89010) on the east. The current land use is an industrial park area. The new CSRP site is proposed to be constructed partially on an existing container yard just west of the DOL facility, and partially on a green grass area west of that container yard. The green grass area is currently not used and remains in a natural state.

3.2 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

On the subject property, the terrain is generally flat, with a slight drop in elevation towards the north. The surrounding landscape includes other industrial areas, such as the DOL facility to the east and the railhead to the southwest. Because the property lies within the Main Cantonment area of the installation, very few visually appealing sites

surround the property. A few native trees dot the landscape, and the immediate block surrounding the new CSRP site is free from obstructions.

3.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The only geological feature observed on the subject property is a change in elevation, sloping slightly downwards toward the north. Soils observed on the property are of the Brackett-Topsey association and Cho clay loam, with inclusions of Noff very stony silty clay loam. See Figure 3.1 for locations of the soil types.

Figure 3.1



3.4 WATER

Water Quality

Although no water bodies exist on the subject property, rain events may cause runoff from the site to end up in nearby waters. The presence of grasses and the lack of nearby water bodies substantially minimize any impacts to water quality from the current site. Use of the Integrated Pest Management Plan minimizes any impacts to water quality due to use, and runoff, of pesticides when applied near the new CSRP site.

Waters of the U.S.

A waters of the U.S. delineation was completed for the project area, as well as the surrounding area nearby. While there were no waters of the U.S. present on the project area, there was a small wetland located near the project site. The delineation indicated that the wetland is not a waters of the U.S., so any potential impacts would not require a Section 404 permit.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.5.1 Vegetation

The vegetation observed on the subject property is primarily mid-grass associations of the Cross Timbers and Prairies areas, with inclusions of the tall-grass associations of the Blackland Prairie. Species observed include little bluestem, tall dropseed, KR bluestem, broomweed, silver bluestem, gumweed, and western ragweed. Trees observed on the subject property include Ashe juniper trees to the north and Plateau live oak trees to the south. No trees exist in the proposed footprint of the new CSRP facility. However, trees might be disturbed due to grading or other activities related to construction.

Live oak trees are a protected native species on Fort Hood and are subject to the 10:1 replacement rule, which states that for every one native tree that is removed from the Cantonment Area of Fort Hood, ten native trees must be planted to replace the tree that was removed. The replacement trees must be chosen from Fort Hood's Landscaping Memorandum of Instruction. Juniper trees are not a protected species on Fort Hood.

3.6 AIR QUALITY

Fort Hood is located in Bell and Coryell Counties, which are within the Austin-Waco Intrastate Air Quality Control Region (AQCR). Ambient air quality for this area is classified as an unclassifiable attainment area for all critical pollutants. Unclassifiable areas are those areas that have not had ambient air monitoring and are assumed to be in attainment with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Fort Hood, considered a major source for criteria pollutants because of its calculated potential to emit certain criteria pollutants including CO, NO_x, SO₂, VOC, and PM₁₀, is under the jurisdiction of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VI and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). It is also currently designated as a major source of hazardous air pollutants; therefore, existing air emission sources are subject to Maximum Achievable Control Technology standards. The TCEQ approved Fort Hood's Title V Federal Operating Permit on October 29, 2001, and currently conducts annual compliance inspections at Fort Hood. The Title V Operating Permit must be renewed every 5 years, and a new permit is in the process of being renewed.

3.7 NOISE

Noise levels are computed over a 24-hour period and adjusted for nighttime annoyances to produce the day-night average sound level (DNL). DNL is the community noise metric recommended by the USEPA and has been adopted by most Federal agencies (USEPA 1972; Federal Interagency Committee on Noise 1992). A DNL of 65 dB is the level most commonly used for noise planning purposes and represents a compromise between community impact and the need for activities that do cause noise. Areas exposed to DNL above 65 dB are generally not considered suitable. A DNL of 55 dB was identified by USEPA as a level below which there is no adverse impact (USEPA 1972).

The primary noise sensitive area near the new CSRP site is the DOL facility. DOL is in the industrial park area and loud noises are more common; however, there are administrative offices within the DOL facility. The most common public noise complaints throughout Fort Hood are caused by aircraft, followed by range activity. The complaints are not usually due to the effect of the noise on humans, but instead the effect to livestock spooked by sudden noise who damage facilities or structures (USACE 1999). There are no animals or livestock living near the construction area.

3.8 SOCIOECONOMICS

The socioeconomic Region of Influence (ROI) of the subject property encompasses a portion of Fort Hood in Bell County, Texas. Bell County is part of the Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) with a 2003 population of 323,922 (Real Estate Center 2005).

The total population of Bell County was estimated to be 248,727 in 2003. This is a slight increase over the 2002 census population of 245,279 (U.S. Census Bureau [USCB] 2004). The racial mix is mainly comprised of Caucasians (57.3 percent), followed by African-Americans (20.4 percent) and Hispanic or Latino (16.7 percent). The remaining 5.6 percent is split between Asians, American Indians and Alaska natives, and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (USCB 2005).

The total number of jobs in Bell County in 2000 was 121,181, a 25 percent increase over the 1990 figure of 96,935 jobs (USCB 2000a, USCB 1990). The 2000 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, which is slightly lower than the state unemployment rate of 3.8 percent. Approximately 12.1 percent of the total population lives in poverty. This is slightly less than the estimated 15.4 percent of the state population that lives in poverty (USCB 2000a, USCB 2000b).

The 2002 annual Total Personal Income (TPI) for Bell County was \$6,274,479. Bell County's TPI ranked 17th in the state and accounted for 1 percent of the state total. The Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) for Bell County was \$25,581 in 2002. Bell County's PCPI ranked 60th in the state and was 88 percent of the state average (\$29,039) and 83 percent of the national average (\$30,906) (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2005).

In 2000 there were 92,782 housing units in Bell County with 85,507 of these houses currently occupied. Approximately 56,282 of the housing units are currently one-unit, detached structures with the rest existing as multi-unit housing, mobile homes, or boat, recreational vehicles, or vans (USCB 2000c).

3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS

E.O. 12898 “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” dated February 11, 1994, requires all Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effect of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. Since the project area exhibits a large population of minorities, particularly groups claiming African American and Hispanic or Latino origin and low-income populations, E.O. 12898 will be considered in this EA.

E.O. 13045 “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks” dated April 21, 1997 requires Federal agencies to identify and address the potential to generate disproportionately high environmental health and safety risks to children. This E.O. was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development, are more sensitive to adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults. Since the project area is located near residential areas and a school where children may be present, E.O. 13045 will be considered in this EA.

3.10 HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS

Hazardous waste, hazardous materials, and toxic substances include those substances defined as hazardous by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), or the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In general, they include substances that, because of their quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or toxic characteristics, may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or to the environment when inappropriately released.

Unserviceable materials and used products are managed at the Fort Hood Classification Unit (CU) for in-house users. Contractors are required to provide material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and product labels for all hazardous and toxic materials used during construction on the installation. Further, the contractor should store and dispose of these products in coordination with the Classification Unit on Fort Hood.

3.11 UTILITIES

Water Supply

Potable water on Fort Hood is obtained from the Bell County Water Control Improvement District (BCWCID) #1, which guarantees a delivery of 16.0 million gallons/day (mgd) (USACE 2003). BCWCID #1 obtains its water from Belton Lake. It is anticipated that the new CSRP will continue to use this service for any new facilities.

Sanitary Sewer

Fort Hood and the City of Killeen are served by Treatment Plants #1 and #2 of the BCWCID #1. Half of Treatment Plant #1's capacity of 15.0 mgd is reserved for Fort Hood. Treatment plant #2 has an additional reserve capacity of 3.0 mgd and adjacent land is available to construct another treatment plant with a capacity of 6.0 mgd (USACE 2003). It is anticipated that the new CSRP will continue to use this service for any new facilities.

Electric Power

Texas Utilities Electric Company provides electricity to the Fort Hood area through two 138,000-volt transmission lines (USACE 1999). It is anticipated that the new CSRP will continue to use this service for any new facilities.

Natural Gas

The Lone Star Gas Company provides a guaranteed annual delivery of 1,300,000 MCF. It is anticipated that the new CSRP will continue to use this service for any new facilities.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The Environmental Consequences section assesses the direct and indirect impacts of the construction of a new CSRP. Direct impacts are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. For the purposes of this EA, direct impacts are those caused by the construction of the new CSRP. Indirect impacts are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect impacts are those subsequent impacts associated with use or development of the subject properties. Impact are defined as “short-term” (those impacts which would occur prior to or during construction), or “long-term” (those impacts expected to last beyond the duration of construction).

As outlined in the beginning of section 3.0, only those resources that could potentially be impacted as a result of direct or indirect impacts are addressed in the following sections.

4.1 LAND USE

4.1.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the land use would be very similar as the current land use. The new CSRP would be built on both previously undisturbed land and on an area that currently functions as a container yard, just west of the DOL facility. The new project area will overlap approximately 1.87 acres of the existing parking lot, and 4.49 acres of green grass property.

Insignificant, long-term impacts to land use would be anticipated as a result of CSRP construction activities because a large portion of the building would be positioned on a green grass site; however, the development of this site is consistent with land use of the surrounding area.

4.1.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to land use as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.2 AESTHETICS AND VISUAL RESOURCES

4.2.1 Proposed Action

This alternative would result in the likely conversion of visual features found at the new construction area from a gently sloping terrain CSRP. However, any development that would occur would be consistent with existing development in the immediate area. As a result, no impacts to aesthetics and visual resources would occur.

4.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to aesthetics and visual resources as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

4.3.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, there would be no direct impacts to geology from the construction of the new CSRP.

However, the construction of a new CSRP would have a long-term insignificant impact to soils.

Construction of the new CSRP would involve standard construction activities, including clearing, grading, and paving. Construction activities would be evaluated to determine the erosion potential of the soils, and erosion control designs would be incorporated into construction plans. Increased runoff and erosion would occur during site construction due to removal of vegetation, exposure of soil, and increased susceptibility to wind and water erosion. However, these effects would be minimized by the use of appropriate best management practices for controlling runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. Recommended best management practices to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation include, but are not limited to, silt fences, straw bale (containing native grass species) dikes, diversion ditches, rip-rap channels, water bars, and water spreaders. With the implementation of best management practices, impacts to soils are expected to be insignificant.

4.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to geology, topography, or soils as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.4 WATER

4.4.1 Proposed Action

Water Quality

Storm Water

Construction of the new CSRP would have long-term, insignificant effects from increased impervious surface area and a subsequent increase in storm water runoff. Adherence to proper storm water management engineering practices, applicable regulations, codes, and permit requirements, and low-impact development techniques would reduce storm water runoff-related impacts to a level of insignificance. Further, a SWPPP would be required to be submitted to TCEQ before construction of the new CSRP could begin.

Wastewater

There would be a long-term insignificant impact to wastewater from the construction of the new CSRP. The BCWCID is capable of treating 21 mgd of wastewater. In an average year, the BCWCID treats 4.4 billion gallons of wastewater. The BCWCID should have adequate capacity to meet future development needs and there should be no significant impacts as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. However, prior to any construction activities, Fort Hood should coordinate with the BCWCID to ensure they have adequate capacity to meet the facility's needs.

Waters of the U.S.

The wetland located on the subject property is not determined to be a waters of the U.S.; however, in the best management of Fort Hood natural resources, a conscious effort should be made to avoid the wetland area. Efforts to connect utilities to the new facility should avoid the wetland area, either by trenching around the wetland area or using aerial connections.

4.4.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to water quality or waters of the U.S.

4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.5.1 Vegetation

4.5.1.1 Proposed Action

Long-term, insignificant impacts would result from construction activities and would include the direct loss of nearly seven acres of vegetation. This loss of vegetation would be comprised of native grasses, and no native tree loss is anticipated. Portions of the

project area could be maintained in their current open space state and vegetation would not be disturbed. Alteration of the landscape during construction phases is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts on species diversity or significant impacts to the quality of the vegetative community within the project area.

4.5.1.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to vegetation in the area.

4.6 AIR QUALITY

4.6.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, short-term, intermittent, insignificant effects would be expected within the AQCR as a result of construction of the new CSRP. Heavy construction equipment and trucks would emit minor amounts of NO_x, PM₁₀, CO, SO_x, and VOCs. Although these construction activities would produce dust and particulate matter, these actions pose no significant impact on air quality. Fugitive dust emissions can easily be controlled and minimized by using standard construction practices such as periodically wetting the construction area, covering open equipment used to convey materials, and promptly removing spilled or tracked dirt from streets. Since the proposed construction site is located within an unclassifiable/attainment area for all criteria pollutants, General Conformity Rule requirements are not applicable.

4.6.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to air quality as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.7 NOISE

4.7.1 Proposed Action

Construction activities would increase noise levels temporarily at locations immediately adjacent to the CSRP construction site. Noise levels created by construction equipment would vary greatly depending on factors such as the type of equipment, the specific model, the operation being performed, and the condition of the equipment. The equivalent sound level of the construction activity also depends on the fraction of time that the equipment is operated over the time period of the construction. Heavy equipment

such as backhoes and cement and dump trucks would cause short-term, localized, insignificant increases in noise levels during construction.

Most construction activities resulting from this alternative would produce only short-term noise level increases. Construction would occur only during daylight hours, thus reducing the DNLs and the chances of causing annoyances. Since construction would only occur during daylight hours, these short-term increases are not expected to substantially affect adjacent noise sensitive receptors or wildlife areas. If the use of dynamite, pile drivers, or any extreme noise making device associated with construction were to become prevalent, a noise study and mitigation measures should be considered.

4.7.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to noise as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.8 SOCIOECONOMICS

4.8.1 Proposed Action

The labor for the construction of the new CSRP would be provided by local and/or regional contractors, resulting in short-term, insignificant increases in the population of the project area. Materials and other project expenditures would predominantly be obtained through merchants in the local community resulting in direct economic benefits. The proposed construction of the CSRP would not be expected to increase burdens on local social resources. Safety buffer zones would be designated around all construction sites to ensure public health and safety. No displacement would result from this action and, therefore, there would be no impacts to housing in the area. Consequently, no long-term adverse impacts to socioeconomics are expected.

4.8.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to socioeconomics as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.9 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS

4.9.1 Proposed Action

Environmental Justice

Even though minorities account for a large portion of the local population, particularly groups claiming African American and Hispanic or Latino origin and low-income populations, construction of a new CSRP is expected to have a beneficial effect on all populations regardless of race, origin, or income level. The new CSRP would be constructed and operated under the guidelines of E.O. 12898. The proposed project would benefit everyone on the installation by moving the existing CSRP away from the center of the Main Cantonment area to the industrial park area, minimizing opportunities for terrorist attacks via trucks entering heavily populated areas. The construction of the new CSRP would be in compliance with E.O. 12898 and have no impacts on environmental justice.

Protection of Children from Health and Safety Risks

Numerous types of construction equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, graders, and dump trucks, and other large construction equipment would be used throughout the duration of future construction activities on the new CSRP site. During construction, safety measures would be followed to protect the health and safety of residents as well as construction workers. Barriers and “No Trespassing” signs would be placed around construction sites to deter children from playing in these areas, and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. Since the construction area would be flagged or otherwise fenced, issues regarding Protection of Children are not anticipated.

4.9.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to environmental justice or protection of children as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.10 HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS

4.10.1 Proposed Action

Short-term insignificant impacts to hazardous and toxic materials would be expected as a result of construction activities on the new CSRP site. The area is undeveloped and potentially hazardous materials would likely be on-site during construction such as paints, asphalt, fuels, and motor oils for construction vehicles. Persons working with or near fresh paint and asphalt should protect themselves by wearing appropriate clothing, washing their hands before eating or smoking, and bathing at the end of each workday. Construction equipment that could be used contains fuel, lubricating oils, hydraulic fluid, and coolants that could be a regulated hazardous substance if they spilled or leaked on the construction site. The construction contractors would be responsible for the prevention of spills of paint and fuels. Spills could be prevented by proper storage and handling of these materials, attention to the task at hand, and safe driving.

During construction activities, vehicle and equipment would be inspected to ensure correct and leak-free operation, and maintenance activities would not be conducted on the site. Appropriate spill containment material would be kept on site. All fuels and other materials that would be used will be contained in the equipment or stored in appropriate containers. All materials would be removed from the site upon completion of construction activities.

Some materials, while essentially inert under normal conditions, can be potentially hazardous in specific circumstances. Wood and dry concrete can generate airborne particulate as they are cut or sanded. To protect against the impacts of such particulates, workers should wear face masks and safety glasses when performing these tasks. Wood and other construction materials are also flammable. Establishing dedicated smoking areas and prohibiting open flames near flammable materials would greatly reduce the risk of fire.

4.10.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to hazardous and toxic materials as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.11 UTILITIES

4.11.1 Proposed Action

Water, sewer, electrical, and gas lines would have to be installed in the project area. Prior to any construction activities, Fort Hood should coordinate with the appropriate utility suppliers and transportation officials to ensure they have capacity to incorporate the new CSRP into the required systems.

4.11.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the new CSRP would not be constructed. There would be no new land disturbance, and Fort Hood would continue to operate from the current CSRP located near the corner of Warehouse Avenue and 78th Street. There would be no impacts, either beneficial or adverse, to utilities as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.12 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQ regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA require Federal agencies to consider the cumulative impacts of a proposal (40 CFR 1508.25(c)). A

cumulative impact on the environment is the impact that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1508.7). This type of an assessment is important because significant cumulative impacts can result from several smaller actions that by themselves do not have significant impacts.

Currently, there are plans to add nine projects to the immediate area surrounding the new CSRP site. These nine projects are part of a large project to create an industrial park area, moving existing facilities with industrial or commercial use to one central location away from the center of the main cantonment area. These projects, except for the new Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO), are shown in Figure 4.1 below. Figures 4.2 and 4.3 show the 2005 findings from the waters of the U.S. delineation report.

Army Materiel Command Brigade Headquarters

A proposed Army Materiel Command Brigade Headquarters is planned for construction on the southwest corner of Clarke Road and Tank Destroyer Boulevard. A waters of the U.S. delineation exists for this area, and preliminary plans indicate avoidance of wetlands and waters of the U.S. The primary use of the facility will be administrative.

Phase II of the CSRP: Deployment Readiness Yard

An addition to the CSRP discussed in this EA is planned for construction. A deployment readiness yard will be the Phase II for the original CSRP, although there is no time frame yet for construction. A waters of the U.S. delineation exists for this area, and preliminary plans indicate avoidance of wetlands and waters of the U.S. The deployment readiness yard will be attached to the west of the new CSRP facility. There are some native trees in the area that should be avoided.

Expansion of Tank Destroyer Boulevard

A proposal was made to expand the current Tank Destroyer Boulevard to four lanes. Traffic flow would be improved due to increased traffic flow to the new Industrial Park area. There is no waters of the U.S. delineation for this area, although bridges and crossings would need to be improved as a part of the project. It is anticipated that some native trees could be impacted.

Consolidated Warehouse Facility

Warehouses currently sited in the 4200 block, which is comprised of World War II facilities, would be demolished and relocated to one central Consolidated Warehouse Facility. The new facility would be located southwest of the proposed Army Materiel Command Brigade Headquarters. The proposed site appears to avoid wetlands and waters of the U.S., as identified on the 2005 delineation report for this area.

Equipment Receipt Yard

The Maintenance Facility will be west of Clarke Road, just south of the proposed Consolidated Warehouse Facility. Four buildings are planned to be constructed at this

site. There are no identified wetlands or waters of the U.S. at this location, according to the 2005 delineation report for this area.

Equipment Fielding Yard

The second site is located east of Clarke Road, due south from LZ Phantom. Three buildings are planned to be constructed in this area. There are two identified waters of the U.S., one located east of the planned facility and one planned west of the facility. Construction limits are currently shown to be outside of the boundaries of the waters of the U.S. One hardstand of trees is located on the site. If the trees are determined to be native, they must be replaced at a ratio of ten new trees for every one tree removed.

FORSCOM Contract Maintenance Facility

The Maintenance Facility is planned to be located southeast of LZ Phantom, due east from the planned Equipment Fielding Yard. The 2005 delineation report shows that waters of the U.S. surround the new site to the north and east, with a wetland area north of the proposed project area. Depending on actual size of the facility, current plans do not indicate that the grading limits will impose on the wetland or waters of the U.S.

Heavy Equipment/Commercial Vehicle Access Control Point (ACP)

A new heavy equipment/commercial vehicle ACP is planned for construction on the same vicinity as the existing ACP at the corner of U.S. Highway 190 and Clarke Road. There is no waters of the U.S. delineation for this area.

DRMO Facility

A need was identified for DRMO to relocate to the industrial park area. The proposed site is west of the proposed CSRP construction site discussed in this EA. The entire facility is estimated to be approximately 34,000 square yards of asphalt, whereon several facilities will be placed. There are no wetlands or waters of the U.S. located in this area.

Although plans for this area show an increase in facilities due to the creation of an industrial park area, it is anticipated that the cumulative impacts will not have significant impacts to the area.

The 2005 delineation report is a beneficial aid in planning and location of sites, so as to avoid and minimize any impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S. Further, the Tank Destroyer Boulevard upgrades will alleviate any long-term impacts to traffic, and impacts to waters due to disturbance of soil will be greatly minimized due to best management of construction sites and adherence to the requirements set forth in a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Land use is similar to other land use in the cantonment area. No long-term impacts to air quality are anticipated, only short-term, insignificant impacts due to machinery and dust during construction phases. Noise is also common for this segment of the cantonment area, and will only be increased slightly during construction

phases. Vegetation and animal life is not anticipated to be significantly impacted, since this area is already in the cantonment area and has an industrial use. Any native trees that are removed for any project would be replaced at a 10:1 ratio, as discussed above.

Figure 4.1

Industrial Park Development Plan

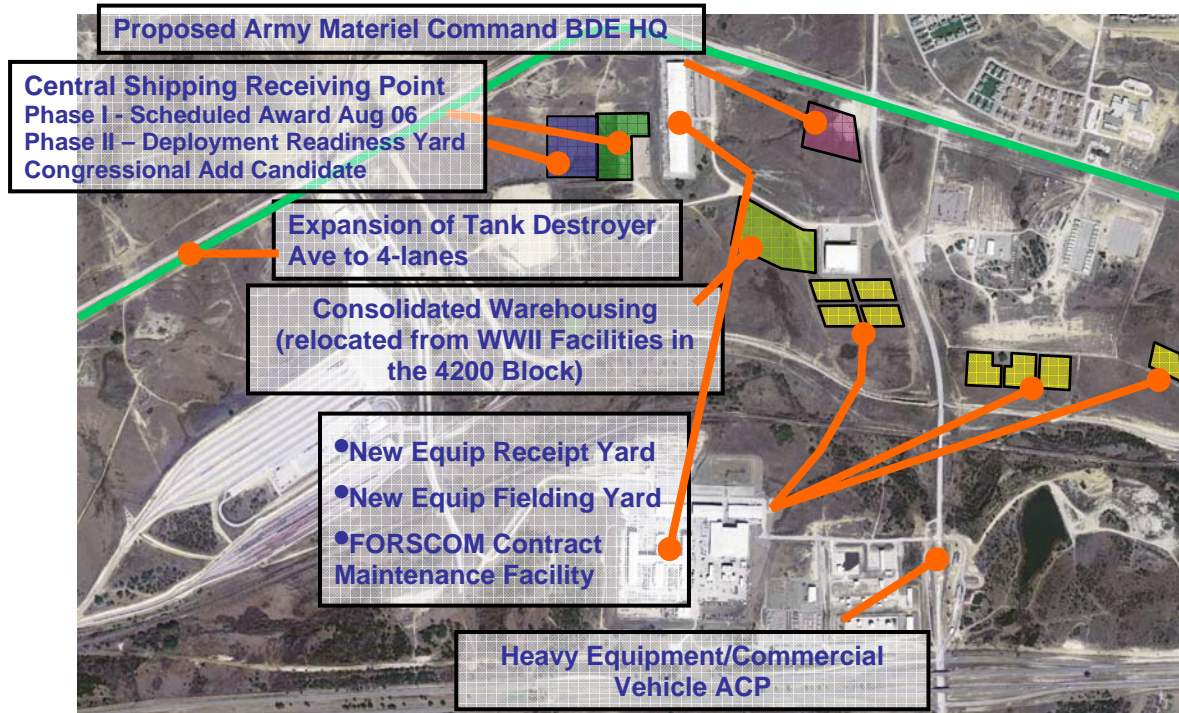


Figure 4.2



Figure 4.3



5.0 CONCLUSION

Based on this EA, there would be insignificant adverse impacts associated with the construction of the new CSRP. Approximately 6.36 acres of open space would be converted to urban use. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm water, waste water, and vegetation are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise, hazardous materials, and socioeconomics due to construction activities are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to environmental justice and protection of children are anticipated.

Therefore, no significant impact on human health or the natural environment is anticipated from the Proposed Action. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is warranted and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.1 AGENCY COORDINATION

This section discusses consultation and coordination that have and will occur during preparation of this document. This would include contacts that are made during the development of the alternatives and writing of the EA. Formal and informal coordination will be conducted during the draft phase with the following agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

6.2 PUBLIC REVIEW

The Draft EA and FNSI will be available for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning May 4, 2006. The Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Killeen Daily Herald. The purpose of this review is to ensure that significant issues are resolved. The documents can be viewed on the following website: <http://www.dpw.hood.army.mil/HTML/PPD/Pnotice.htm>. Copies have also been provided to the Killeen Public Library at 205 East Church Avenue, Killeen, Texas, 76541. Comments on the EA and FNSI should be submitted no later than June 5, 2006 to: U.S. Army, HQ III Corps and Fort Hood, Attn: IMSW-HOD-PWE, Building 4219, 77th Street and Warehouse Avenue, Fort Hood, TX 76544-5028, Attn: Amber Preston, (phone 254-288-5462).

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8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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